

Message Text

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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FOLLOWING REPEAT CARACAS 03979 ACTIONSECSTATE GENEVA
IAEA VIENNA USUN NY USLO PEKING THE HAGUE LONDON MOSCOW
PARIS APR 21, 1977

QTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 3979

STATE PASS ALL ARA POSTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, XM

SUBJECT: OPANAL MEETING IN CARACAS

REF: CARAKS 3947

1. AMBASSADOR VAKY, AS US REPRESENTATIVE TO OPANAL
MEETING, MADE STATEMENT APRIL 20 (SEE REFTTEL) REITERAT-
ING PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION ANNOUNCED IN HIS APRIL 14
PAN AMERICAN DAY SPEECH THAT US WOULD SIGN PROTOCOL I OF THE
TREATY OF TLATELOLCO. PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION AND US STATE-
MENT WERE BOTH VERY WELL RECEIVED. VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER
ESCOVAR AND OPANAL SECRETARY GENERAL GROSSSPIELL IN STATEMENTS
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DURING OPENING OF OPANAL MEETING, BOTH EXPRESSED IN WARMEST TERMS
THEIR SATISFACTION AT PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION. FOLLOWING
US STATEMENT, HEAD VENEZUELAN DELEGATION, ACTING AS CHAIRMAN OF
THE CONFERENCE, MADE WARM AND BRIEFLY COMMENTS AND CALLED UPON
THE AMBASSADOR TO TRANSMIT TO PRESIDENT CARTER THE THANKS OF
OPANAL GENERAL CONFERENCE FOR THIS IMPORTANT DECISION. OTHER
DELEGATIONS ALSO PRAISED US DECISION. SUBSEQUENTLY, GENERAL

CONFERENCE ADOPTED RESOLUTION THANKING PRESIDENT CARTER AND REITERATING OPANAL'S APPEAL TO FRANCE AND SOVIET UNION TO SIGN AND RATIFY PROTOCOLS I AND II (SEE REFTEL). AN EFFORT BY URUGUAYAN REPRESENTATIVE TO WEAKEN RESOLUTION BY CHANGING THE WORD "GRATITUDE"(CONCERNING OPANAL'S ATTITUDE TOWARD US DECISION TO SIGN PROTOCOL I) TO "RECOGNITION" WAS DEFEATED.

2. BRAZIL REQUESTED AND WAS GRANTED PERMISSION TO MAKE A STATEMENT FOLLOWING THAT OF US. THIS TURNED OUT TO BE A NON-POLEMICAL EXPLANATION OF BRAZIL'S REFUSAL TO CONSIDER TREATY TO BE IN FORCE (BECAUSE ALL THE PRIOR CONDITIONS HAVE NOT BEEN MET), BUT PLEDGED TO DO NOTHING WHICH WOULD FRUSTRATE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE TREATY AND REITERATED BRAZIL'S SUPPORT FOR THE CAUSE OF NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA.

3. FOLLOWING US STATEMENT, ANOTHER RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED URGING THE GOVERNMENTS OF ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CHILE AND CUBA TO BECOME PARTIES TO THE TREATY AND TO WAIVE THE PRECONDITIONS TO BRING THE TREATY INTO EFFECT.

4. INDIA HAS OBSERVER DELEGATION AT MEETING AND US REPRESENTATIVES NOTED THAT OPANAL SECRETARIAT CIRCULATED LIST OF THOSE COUNTRIES STILL TO SIGN PROTOCOL II WHICH INCLUDED INDIA. US REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMSON RAISED THIS WITH OPANAL SECRETARY GROS SPIELMANN EVENING APRIL 19. WILLIAMSON EXPLAINED THAT INCLUDING INDIA IN THE CATEGORY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE TREATY COULD HARM PROSPECTS FOR ITS SUCCESSFUL ENTRY INTO FORCE. IT ALSO COULD REDUCE PROSPECTS FOR INDUCING INDIA TO FOREGO THE ACQUISITION OF A WEAPONS FORCE. GROS SPIELMANN REPLIED THAT INDIA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS INCLUDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY, AND THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO ADD INDIA TO THOSE STATES WHICH MUST SIGN PROTOCOL II. ON APRIL 20, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION FROM THE FLOOR CONCERNING INDIA'S RELATIONSHIP TO PROTOCOL II, GROS SPIELMANN MADE THE FOLLOWING EXPLANATION TO THE CONFERENCE.

A) INDIA HAS STATED THAT IT DOES NOT CONSIDER ITSELF A NUCLEAR WEAPON STATE;

B) THE QUESTION OF INCLUDING INDIA AMONG THOSE STATES WHICH MUST SIGN PROTOCOL II HAD BEEN RAISED IN AN EARLIER SESSION AND NO DECISION WAS TAKEN CONCERNING THAT POINT;

C) TREATY OF TALLERIES DOES NOT DEFINE NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES, THOUGH IT DOES DEFINE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. INDIA HAS EXPLODED A NUCLEAR DEVICE. IN VIEW OF INDIA'S POSITION THAT IT IS NOT A NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATE, INDIA'S INCLUSION FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES IN A LIST OF THOSE STATES WHICH HAVE NOT SIGNED PROTOCOL II DOES NOT IMPLY IN ANY WAY THAT OPANAL CONSIDERS THAT INDIA MUST SIGN

PROTOCOL II.

5. ONLY SLIGHTLY CONTENTIOUS NOTE WAS STRUCK DURING DEBATE ON THE QUESTION OF ENHANCING OPANAL'S ROLE IN PEACEFUL USES OF THE ATOM. MEXICAN DELEGATE, IN INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A STUDY OF AN ENHANCED ROLE FOR OPANAL, (WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED), STRESSED THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION FACING THE CONFERENCE WAS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENHANCED PEACEFUL USES AND NON-PROLIFERATION. THE SUPERPOWERS HAVE NOT LIVED UP TO THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE 6 OF THE TREATY TO ENGAGE IN GENUINE DISARMAMENT, HE ASSERTED. THE NUCLEAR POWERS, MOREOVER, HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO TRANSFER NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE SUPPLIER COUNTRIES ACTING IN SECRET IN THE LONDON CLUB WERE IMPOSING NEW RULES ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH DENIES THEM ACCESS TO NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES. GONZALEZ GALVES INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT IN MANY RESPECTS THE SUPPLIER COUNTRIES' CONCERNS ABOUT ABUSE OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY WERE "LEGITIMATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND JUSTIFIED" PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE EXPLOSION OF A NUCLEAR DEVICE BY A DEVELOPING COUNTRY. HOWEVER, THE MAKING OF NEW RULES SHOULD BE THROUGH EXISTING INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE IAEA, AND NOT IMPOSED UNILATERALLY. NUCLEAR POWERS SHOULD ALSO SHARE THE BENEFITS OF PNE'S. HE CONCLUDED BY STRESSING THAT THE TREATY OF TLAELOLCO PROVIDES A GREATER DEGREE OF PROTECTION THAN DOES THE NPT BECAUSE OF TLAELOLCO'S UNIQUE SYSTEM OF CHALLENGE INSPECTIONS, WHICH DOES NOT EXIST IN NPT. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF LATIN AMERICAN STATES COOPERATING TOGETHER THROUGH THEIR OWN INSTITUTIONS TO GUARANTEE THAT THE USE OF NUCLEAR POWER CAN BE INCREASED, WHILE REDUCING THE DANGERS OF PROLIFERATION.

6. THESE POINTS WERE ALSO REITERATED MORE BRIEFLY AND LESS CONTENTIOUSLY BY THE VENEZUELAN REPRESENTATIVE WHO ECHOED THE LACK OF REAL PROGRESS ON DISARMAMENT BY NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES, AND CONDEMNED THE "LONDON CLUB" FOR ADOPTING NEW RULES WHICH ARE NOT CAPABLE OF BEING COMPLIED WITH. HE STRESSED THE NEED FOR NUCLEAR POWER TO MEET FUTURE ENERGY NEEDS, AND POINTED OUT THAT EXISTING REACTORS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE AND TOO LARGE TO BE UTILIZED IN MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BETTER LATIN AMERICAN COOPERATION AND COORDINATION.

7. COMMENT: THE MEXICAN PRESENTATION, WHICH GONZALEZ GALVES TOOK EXTRA CARE TO KEEP ENTIRELY SEPARATED FROM HIS VERY POSITIVE REMARKS ON PROTOCOL I, WAS A CURIOUS MIX OF THCD WORLD RHETORIC AND SUPPORT FOR POSITIONS FAVORED BY THE U.S. THE EXPRESSION OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE CONCERNS OF SUPPLIER STATES IS PERHAPS A POSITIVE FIRST INSTANCE. HOWEVER, IT IS CLEAR THAT MEXICO, AS THE LEADING LATIN AMERICAN FORCE FAVORING NON-PROLIFERATION IS NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH SOME USG METHODS, PARTICULARLY ON RESTRICTED

TIONS ON ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY. ON THE OTHER HAND, MEXICO'S
INITIATIVE ON PEACEFUL PURPOSES IN OPANAL COMPLEMENTS PRESIDENT
CARTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF A WORLDWIDE FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION
PROGRAM. VAKY UNQTE VANCE

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